

The squirrel was very fond of apples and fed well on the journey but felt the heat (it was July) intensely. I gave her a big lump of ice in her cage which she much appreciated. Eventually I got her safely on board ship and she survived the voyage and arrived at my home in Sussex in very good condition. At first we housed her in a small room in the tower above the house but she was not very happy there, so she was relegated to an old glass house—a fernery where she had lots of room. She lived in this house for over a year being fed on apples, nuts, pie crust and other fruits.

In the meantime I had to return to India and my mother took her in charge. She fed her every day.

When I returned two years later she was still in good health and fairly friendly. One evening in July we heard her calling in the park. We ultimately traced her to a big oak tree. On examining the fernery we discovered a hole in the roof through which she had evidently been in the habit of going out every night to feed on apples or acorns, and then returning in the early morning. We did not block up the hole and she returned as before. For some time she continued her nocturnal visits to the park and garden and eventually she strayed away and was ultimately found dead in Petworth, 4 miles away, probably shot by some 'sportsman'. Had we had a pair of these squirrels I feel sure they would have done well and probably would have bred, but I am inclined to think they could not survive the winter in England unless fed, as I do not think they store up food in autumn.

There is another large red flying squirrel which occurs in the submontane sal forests of the tract from Jumna to Nepal. I saw it on several occasions and it seemed to me to be exactly similar to the one above described. The only one I saw at close quarters was when I was sitting up in a machan in the Bahraich sal forest. There was a tiger kill under my machan and I was keeping very quiet as the time had come when the tiger should return. Suddenly there was some smack on the tree just above my head not 2 feet away where a flying squirrel had alighted having doubtless glided down from some distant tree. It gave me a jump! I do not remember if the tiger returned or not.

It would be interesting to ascertain if this large flying squirrel which inhabits the submountane sal forest is, or is not, the same as the high level Himalayan species. Possibly the Bombay Natural History Society may have specimens from both localities and could settle the question?

116, BANBURY ROAD,  
OXFORD,  
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B. B. OSMASTON

## 5. SCENT

Some sportsmen are apt to underrate the power of scent possessed by certain animals. The tiger and the domestic cat are two instances.

In the article on the Indian Wild Dog published in the Society's *Journal* Vol. 41, No. 4, the writer remarked at page 710 that the

scenting power of the species is extraordinary as shown by the fact that the animals can follow a line in the hot weather when the ground is bone dry. They have been observed doing this during the hottest hours of the day when the temperature is around 110° Fahrenheit.

This power of scent possessed by the Indian Wild Dog is superior to that of most domestic dogs; but that in exceptional instances the trained Alsatian dog can perhaps more than equal it is evidenced by the doings of 'Captain Hall', the Alsatian so named by the Egyptian Police after his former English owner. The dog was three years old when taken in hand, and though born of untrained parents took to the work at once and proved to be of amazing intelligence.

In his most interesting and informative book, 'Egyptian Service—1902-1946.' Sir Thomas Russell Pasha, K.B.E., C.M.G. relates how this dog, among many and remarkable cases, showed how he was able to follow a scent several days old, and even on a tarmac road over which motor cars had been passing for some hours after the scent had been laid.

In one case every detail was personally known by Sir Thomas Russell as the Senior Police Officer in close connection with the murder of his shikari, Guda. The dog Hall arrived with his handler four days after the murder, and having had his nose pressed down to the foot imprint of one of the three suspects picked the man out from a number of men lined up in two ranks for his inspection. He was then taken back to the place in the desert where the naked body of the murdered man had been buried by the murderers and repeated the process by detection of a second man in the identification parade; being once more taken to the graveside he repeated the feat by singling out the third suspect. Although the previous two were still in the ranks he passed them by and seized the third man.

The tracks from the village hamlet to the desert grave showed that a donkey had been used for conveyance of the corpse. The five days old back track from the grave to the village was followed by the dog which disregarded everyone of the many other overlying tracks and led the following party of police and others to the hut where the man had been strangled. For the first seven kilometres the ground was soft and still showed the track, but a kilometre from the desert edge sand and gravel gave way to flint and rock yet the astounding dog took the track over a mile of stony country, over ground fouled by the tracks of village flocks and herds and getting yet more foul as it approached the village. Slowly he puzzled out the line, took it half round by the outer wall of the hamlet, in and along the village street, sniffing at each door till he found the house he wanted when he gave tongue and demanded entrance.

This wonderful instance of power of scent and sagacity is here related with presumed permission of the distinguished author in whose book are also instances of the marvellous tracking powers of some Arabs. In Upper India also there are people who can perform very wonderful feats of tracking as is well known to the police of those parts of the country.

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R. W. BURTON,  
Lieut.-Col. I.A. (Retd.)